

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01

/135 W

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R 181518Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6741

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3313

JERUSALEM OR DAMASCUS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS EG

SUBJ: EGYPT-ISRAEL: MAINTAINING MUTUAL CONFIDENCE

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 2706; (B) CAIRO 3211 (C) CAIRO 3274;

(C) FBIS KYRENIA 171408Z MAY; (E) FBIS LONDON

171530Z MAY; (F) FBIS KYRENIA 171640 MAY (NOTAL)

1. IN WAKE OF MAALOT OUTRAGE AND ISRAELI  
RETALIATORY RAIDS ON LEBANON, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE  
THAT ISRAELI AND ARAB TEMPERERS ARE AGAIN FRAYED.

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IN THIS EMOTION-CHARGED ATMOSPHERE, IT SEEMS

ESSENTIAL NOT TO ALLOW THAT MODICUM OF CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT WHICH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LEADERSHIPS HAVE DEVELOPED TOWARD EACH OTHER IN RECENT MONTHS TO BECOME A CASUALTY.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT, RADIO ISRAEL'S CITATION OF AN APPARENTLY NON-EXISTENT RADIO CAIRO COMMENTARY IS UNHELPFUL AND POTENTIALLY DAMAGING TO WHAT OUGHT TO BE OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE OF MAINTAINING WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. (NOTE: FBIS INFORMS, AFTER "THROUGH CHECK" BY BBC AND FBIS KYRENIA, THAT INFLAMMATORY COMMENTARY "CITED" IN ISRAELI BROADCAST MAY 16 AND REPORTED TEL AVIV REFTEL WAS NOT, IN FACT, MONITORED MAY 15 OR 16 EITHER ON CAIRO DOMESTIC SERVICE OR CAIRO VOICE OF PALESTINE. CAIRO COMMENTARY ALLEGEDLY CALLED ON THREE FEDAYEEN AT MAALOT TO INFLICT AS MANY CASUALTIES AS POSSIBLE.)

3. WHILE ISRAELIS MIGHT UNDERSTANDABLY HAVE WANTED A MORE FORTHRIGHT EGYPTIAN DENUNCIATION OF THE MAALOT OUTRAGE, THIS IS UNREALISTIC AT PRESENT JUNCTURE WHEN ISRAELIS STILL OCCUPY ARAB LANDS. AS REPORTED IN CAIRO REFTELS, HOWEVER, EGYPTIAN MEDIA HAVE TREATED MAALOT ATTACK WITH NOTABLE RESTRAINT. COMPARED TO MEDIA TREATMENT OF PAST INCIDENTS, WE MUST SURMISE HANDLING OF RECENT INCIDENTS FOLLOWS SOME KIND OF OFFICIAL GUIDANCE. HOWEVER MODEST, THIS IS A STEP FORWARD AND SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS SUCH.

4. WE ALSO NOTE NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT, AFTER SOME EFFORT, MANAGED TO GET PRIVATE STATEMENT FROM "HIGH OFFICIAL" THAT GOE CONDEMNS ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST INNOCENT PEOPLE AND THAT THIS WAS PUBLISHED. THIS CLEARLY FALLS SHORT OF FAHMY'S PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI REPRISAL RAIDS ON LEBANON, BUT IT WAS APPARENTLY AS MUCH AS GOE FELT IT COULD DO IN ITS PRESENT EXPOSED POSITION IN ARAB WORLD AFTER CONCLUDING DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.  
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5. DANGER IN THIS SITUATION, AS SEEN FROM HERE, IS THAT PUBLIC MEDIA DISTORTIONS ON EITHER SIDE COULD FURTHER POISON ATMOSPHERE. WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE BOTH PARTIES TO CHECK FACTS CAREFULLY AND AVOID LOOSE, UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES. SHOULD ISRAELI REPRISALS ON LEBANON ESCALATE, GOE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FIND IT INCREASINGLY HARD TO AVOID PUBLIC CONDEMNATION

THEREOF AND TO KEEP EGYPTIAN PUBLIC MEDIA COMMENTARY IN LINE.  
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## Message Attributes

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